



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



**NARC Conference Call This Wednesday!**

**President's Human Services & Development FY2018 Budget Proposal**

March 29, 4:00 PM ET

Dial: +1 (646) 749-3122 / Access Code: 240-597-653

This is an important moment for regions. If adopted into law, the president's fiscal year 2018 budget would make substantial cuts to programs that your organizations have come to rely upon to meet the human services and development needs of your residents. These cuts may force you to reduce services, eliminate programs designed especially to promote regional goals and objectives, and limit your future ability to plan and implement programs at the regional level.

Join NARC and NACo on a conference call about the president's proposed budget, what it means for regions, and what you can do to respond to this budget. We will begin with a broad overview of the budget and its implications for cities, counties, and regions, as well as a more specific look at proposed funding for non-transportation and non- infrastructure programs that are likely to face significant cuts in FY2018. Examples include: LIHEAP, WIOA, EDA, HOME, CSBG, AoA, and CSEP. We will also provide recommendations on how regions can effectively respond to the president's budget, and end with time for Q&A.

Contact Neil Bomberg ([neil@narc.org](mailto:neil@narc.org); 202.618.6360) with questions.

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*Congress is in session.*

### Overview

Lawmakers are turning to tax reform and the budget after House Republican leaders and President Donald Trump pulled the healthcare replacement measure from the House floor last week. Congress has barely a month to either finish its work on outstanding appropriations bills or pass

another continuing resolution (CR), as April 28 is the deadline for FY2017 spending bills. The timeline is particularly challenging due to a two-week congressional recess in April. Just three in-session weeks are available between now and the CR's expiration.

Read Erich Zimmermann's blog, *Whispers of a Shutdown*, to learn more about the state of Congress.

For more information on the president's budget, read Neil Bomberg's blog: *The President's Skinny Budget: What's It All About?*

### **This Week in Congress...**

Today, the House will consider three Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) bills under suspension of the rules: (1) **H.R. 1117**, a bill that would require FEMA to develop a plan to improve its guidance and record keeping for disaster funding; (2) **H.R. 1214**, a bill to make more local projects eligible for expedited disaster assistance through FEMA, which would temporarily increase to \$500,000 a FEMA cost threshold used to provide disaster assistance under simplified procedures; and (3) **H.R. 654**, a bill that would direct FEMA to purchase and install an earthquake warning system for the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a fault in the Pacific Northwest.

The House Agriculture Nutrition Subcommittee plans a hearing tomorrow on the next farm bill, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX) wants to overhaul.

Trump's proposals to eliminate funding for the Community Services Block Grant and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program will likely be challenged when Human Services Secretary Tom Price testifies Wednesday before the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee. The secretary should expect questions over HHS's suspension of social media and other outreach in the closing days of the Obamacare enrollment period.

On Thursday, the House will meet to discuss **H.R. 1430**, a bill that bars the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from taking regulatory action unless it publishes associated scientific research online.

A number of House committees will meet this week to discuss: funding for public broadcasting; foreign aid; federal brownfield reauthorization; auditing the Federal Reserve Bank; the *Endangered Species Act* as it relates to economic and infrastructure development; autonomous cars; energy taxes; Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules on broadband privacy (**S. J. Res. 34**); healthcare for veterans; and Washington, D.C.'s metro system.

Senate committees will meet to discuss: supplemental budget requests for defense, the national debt, cybersecurity threats to the U.S. electric grid (**S. 79**), a clean water technical assistance bill for small and rural communities (**S. 518**); and U.S. dependence on foreign sources of minerals and how to improve the domestic supply chain.

### **Cabinet and SCOTUS Updates**

Today, Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats forced the delay of a vote on Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch for a week. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer has said that he will filibuster the nominee, forcing a 60-vote threshold once it clears the committee. Republicans will need at least eight Democrats to vote with them under the current rules to send the nominee forward for a final confirmation vote.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will also consider the nominations of Rod Rosenstein for deputy attorney general and Rachel Brand for associate attorney general. On Wednesday, a committee hearing will examine nominee Jeffrey A. Rosen for deputy secretary of Transportation. Labor Secretary-designate Alexander Acosta is up for committee vote Thursday.

### **Trump's Anticipated Executive Order**

According to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, President Donald Trump is expected to sign on Tuesday an executive order on "energy independence," which would direct his administration to undo a number of Obama's environmental actions. Pruitt said the action would "absolutely" help

bring back coal industry jobs as the Trump administration pursues a "long-term" strategy to renew the domestic fossil fuel industry.

## OTHER NEWS

### Population Declines Accelerate in Many Large Urban Areas

The latest Census Bureau estimates show urban counties losing residents to the suburbs and Sun Belt, particularly in the Northern U.S. and Midwest. Many urban counties that had halted population declines or experienced promising gains are losing residents again, according to **Census estimates** released Thursday.

*Governing* compared the Census' updated domestic migration estimates for all counties within metro areas, and then grouped them by population density. The **146 most densely populated counties** lost a total of 539,000 residents to other parts of the country over the 12-month period ending in July—representing the largest decline in recent years. Contrastingly, suburban counties and less densely populated metro area counties experienced upticks in new resident growth.

## REGION SPOTLIGHT

### GRADD's 6th Annual 'Feed Seniors Now' Food Drive

Nearly one in six senior citizens are at risk of hunger—representing an 88 percent increase over the past decade—according to the Meals on Wheels Association of America. To combat troubling statistics like these, local agencies are once again partnering to sponsor the “Feed Seniors Now” food drive, running March 28-April 24. Groceries will be delivered on May 3, corresponding with Older Americans Month. 'Feed Seniors Now' is a national effort to raise public awareness and combat this crisis. The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) and partners are rallying community support to feed low-income individuals in five Kentucky counties. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about their initiative.

### 2017 NARC Awards

NARC is accepting nominations for its 2017 Achievement and Leadership Awards, which will be presented at the Awards Gala Dinner during the 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 4-7, in Monterey, CA. The awards provide an excellent opportunity for winners to promote their successes to a larger audience, as well as share best practices with their partners and peers. The nomination deadline is April 28th.

## MEMBER REQUEST

### NARC Request: Brownfields Success Stories

Has your region benefited from the U.S. Environment Protection Agency Brownfields grant program? NARC has been asked to submit a statement to the record by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee ahead of their hearing on reauthorizing the Brownfields program. We are hoping to include success stories and best practices from members to highlight the importance of this program. Please contact Sarah Reed, [sarah@narc.org](mailto:sarah@narc.org), with any information or questions.

### Emergency Planning and Evacuation

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is exploring opportunities in the areas of emergency planning and evacuation. They seek feedback from other NARC members that are currently working in these areas. They are especially interested in speaking with COGs or other regional councils who have received federal grant funding for these activities.

Please provide us with a general overview of what you are doing, and indicate if you are willing to speak with SACOG about these efforts. Please send responses to [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

## FEATURED JOBS

*View full list of jobs!*

### Alamo Service Connection Care Specialist – Local Contact Agent

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### Director, Planning and Regional Services Division

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

### **JLUS Project Coordinator**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **Educational Outreach Coordinator**

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

### **Grants Coordinator**

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

### **Regional Transportation Director**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

### **Alamo Regional Transit Area Supervisor -Comal/Guadalupe Area**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

## **FUNDING**

*[View full list of grants!](#)*

## **EVENTS**

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **NARC Webinar! Tapping into the Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities Program**

April 20, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

Are you facing challenges related to brownfields? Would you be interested in learning how you can receive free assistance from brownfield experts? Through funds provided by EPA, the Technical Assistance to Brownfield (TAB) communities program **provides free assistance** to local, county, regional, state, and tribal governments, as well as not-for-profit entities. The TAB program provides a range of assistance, including: guidance on developing grant proposals, prioritizing brownfield sites, interpreting site characterization results, explaining clean-up technologies, navigating regulatory programs and requirements, layering funding and financing options, engaging the community stakeholders, and much more. Join NARC and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) to learn how your community can access this benefit. The webinar will provide examples of how NJIT has assisted hundreds of communities, and will give you information on how you can tap into the TAB program.

### **Free Harvard Course: An Introduction to American Government**

Course begins April 24

Harvard University will be offering a **free online course** on American Government taught by Professor Thomas E. Patterson. This is a comprehensive introduction to American government and politics—its foundations, institutions, organizations, and policies. The course begins April 24 and enrollment is **now open**.

### **Details Available! 51st Annual Conference & Exhibition**

June 4-7 - Monterey, CA

Join NARC and the California Association of Councils of Governments for NARC's 51st Annual Conference and Exhibition.

## **CONTACT US**

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